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Listing of the Claims:

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A composition of matter comprising an antisense oligonucleotide comprising 10 or more contiguous bases of the nucleotide sequence set forth in any one of SEQ ID NOS: 1, and 3-10 and 12-13 wherein the oligonucleotide is conjugated to a peptide and wherein the oligonucleotide is complementary to a bcl-xL-encoding mRNA and inhibits translation thereof.

6-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A composition of matter comprising an antisense oligonucleotide consisting of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 wherein the oligonucleotide is conjugated to a peptide and wherein the oligonucleotide is complementary to a bcl-xL-encoding mRNA and inhibits translation thereof.

10-42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising an effective amount of an antisense oligonucleotide of claim 5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the effective amount is between 0.1 μ M and 10 μ M.

44-47. (Canceled).